



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **Seattle area imam to be deported from the United States**

TACOMA – The imam of a Rainier Valley mosque who was arrested last year on immigration violations by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents today agreed to abandon his legal fight and accept an order of removal from the United States.

Abraham Sheikh Mohamed appeared in immigration court here this morning before Immigration Judge Victoria Young. Following an hour-long hearing, Judge Young ruled that the former imam of the Abu-Bakr Mosque has no legal basis to remain in the United States and ordered him deported to Kenya. During this morning's proceedings, ICE lawyers presented evidence to Judge Young establishing Mohamed's Kenyan citizenship. In the event that ICE is unable to repatriate Mohamed to Kenya, the Judge ruled that he could be removed to Somalia.

The Judge's ruling comes nearly seven months after Mohamed was arrested at Sea-Tac Airport by ICE agents as he returned from a trip to Dallas. The imam has been detained by ICE without bond since his arrest.

During previous immigration hearings on his case, ICE attorneys argued that Mohamed should remain in custody because his ties to terrorist organizations in the horn of Africa made him a national security risk.

"We are gratified by the outcome of this case," said Dorothy Stefan, chief counsel for ICE in Seattle. "It underscores ICE's commitment to protecting the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system."

ICE will begin working immediately to obtain travel documents to carry out Mohamed's removal to Kenya.

#ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21<sup>st</sup> century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*